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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

JANUARY 1985

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

1984--THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COMMISSIONER PATRICIA M. MCDONOUGH RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT A TOTAL OF 29,000 MORE PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED IN MAINE DURING 1984. THIS REPRESENTS THE LARGEST INCREASE IN ANNUAL AVERAGE RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SINCE 1942.

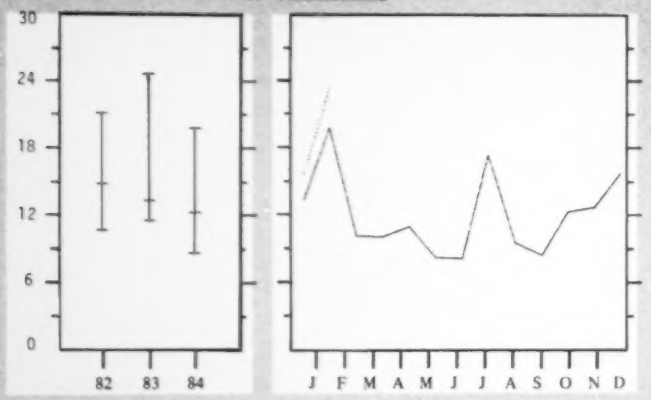
THE YEAR 1984 WAS ONE OF CONTINUED ACCELERATED GROWTH FOR THE MAINE ECONOMY. IT WAS THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN WHICH MAINE'S ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. MAINE'S 1984 ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 6.1 PERCENT COMPARED WITH A NATIONAL CIVILIAN RATE OF 7.5 PERCENT.

BETWEEN 1983 AND 1984, MAINE'S CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT BOTH GREW AT FASTER RATES THAN THE NATION'S. MAINE'S CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE GREW BY 2.8 PERCENT, FROM AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 537,000 IN 1983 TO 552,000 IN 1984. MEANWHILE, THE NATION'S LABOR FORCE ONLY GREW BY 1.8 PERCENT. RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT IN MAINE INCREASED FROM AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 489,000 IN 1983 TO 518,000 IN 1984, FOR AN OVER-THE-YEAR GROWTH OF 5.9 PERCENT. THIS ALSO OUTPACED THE NATIONAL RATE OF INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT, WHICH ONLY GREW BY 4.1 PERCENT OVER THE SAME TIME PERIOD.

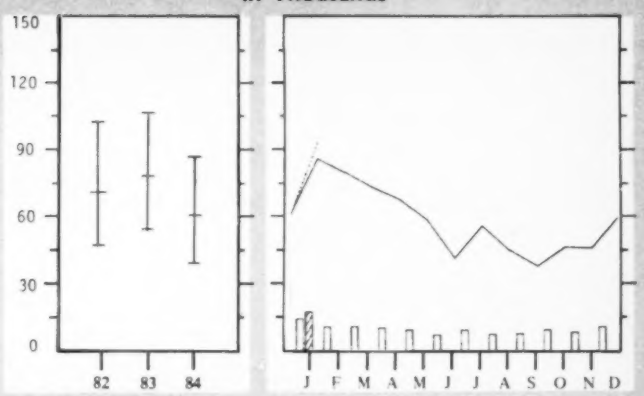
UNEMPLOYMENT IN MAINE FELL BY 14,000 FROM AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 48,000 IN 1983 TO 34,000 IN 1984. THE STRENGTH AND CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE MAINE ECONOMY WAS EVIDENCED BY LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN EVERY MONTH IN 1984, WHEN COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING MONTHS IN 1983. THE 1984 STATEWIDE ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 6.1 PERCENT WAS THE LOWEST ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE SINCE 1973.

THE ABOVE IS A CONTINUATION OF TRENDS IN MAINE'S LABOR FORCE STARTING WITH 1980. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED IN MAINE SINCE 1980 HAS GROWN BY 8.9 PERCENT COMPARED WITH 6.2 PERCENT FOR THE NATION. AS FOR RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT, MAINE'S RATE OF GROWTH HAS NEARLY DOUBLED THE NATION'S - 10.7 PERCENT VERSUS 5.8 PERCENT.

UI Initial Claims
in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
in Thousands



NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN MAINE INCREASED BY 20,500 JOBS, FROM AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 425,000 IN 1983 TO 445,500 IN 1984. APPROXIMATELY 94 PERCENT OF THESE NEW JOBS WERE CREATED IN THE NONMANUFACTURING SECTOR. ALL OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN NONMANUFACTURING GREW AT FASTER RATES THAN THE NATION'S. THE LARGEST ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT INCREASES WERE REPORTED IN: WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE (7,600); SERVICES (5,900); CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION (2,500); FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE (1,500); AND TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES (900). ANNUAL AVERAGE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT INCREASED BY 1,200 IN 1984, AS GAINS IN METALS AND MACHINERY, LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS, TEXTILES, AND PAPER MORE THAN OFFSET LOSSES IN LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS AND FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS.

THE ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES INCREASED FROM $7.61 IN 1983 TO $8.05 IN 1984, AN INCREASE OF 5.8 PERCENT. THE INCREASE OUTPACED THE 4.3 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THE AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED REMAINED THE SAME FOR THE YEAR AT 39.9 HOURS.

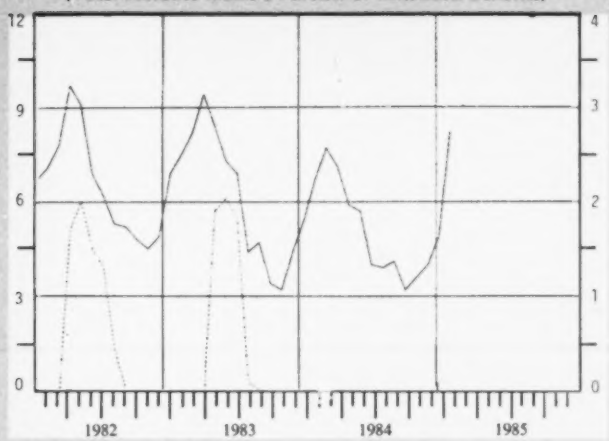
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT MAINE'S EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENTS IN 1984, YOU MAY RECEIVE A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS IN TECHNICAL SERVICES MONOGRAPH LMEP-13 "MAINE'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION SUMMARY--1984", AT NO CHARGE. CONTACT THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH, 20 UNION STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330, OR CALL 289-2271 FOR YOUR COPY.

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

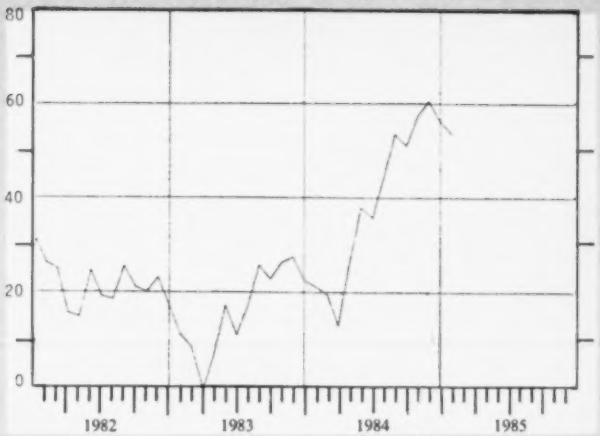
in Million Dollars

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

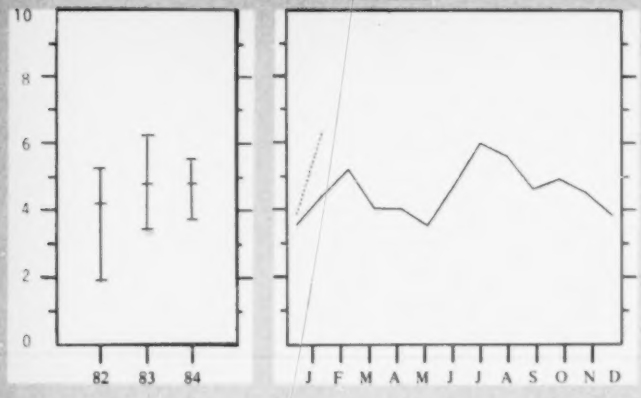
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	434.8	448.7	421.9	101.3	104.6	96.1	35.5	36.1	36.0
Total Manufacturing	107.8	109.0	109.8	16.3	16.3	15.4	10.5	10.5	11.6
Durable Goods	45.4	45.8	43.1	8.1	8.1	7.0	2.4	2.4	2.3
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	14.2	14.4	14.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.8	3.9	3.6	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6
Machinery, except Electrical	4.1	4.1	4.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	9.8	9.9	8.8	3.4	3.4	3.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Transportation Equipment	10.0	10.0	9.4	(d)	(d)	(d)	*	0.1	*
Other Durable Goods 3/	3.5	3.5	3.2	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4
Nondurable Goods	62.4	63.2	66.7	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.1	9.3
Food and Kindred Products	8.2	8.3	7.4	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.7	0.8	0.8
Textile Mill Products	6.8	6.8	7.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.4	1.4	1.7
Apparel	4.4	4.6	4.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	17.8	18.0	18.0	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.7	0.7	0.7
Printing and Publishing	4.7	4.7	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.5
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	4.1	4.1	3.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.8	1.7	1.9
Leather and Leather Products	15.4	15.7	19.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.8	3.6
Footwear (except Rubber)	12.9	13.1	15.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.2	2.2	3.0
Other Leather Products	2.5	2.6	3.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	327.0	339.7	312.1	85.0	88.3	80.7	25.0	25.6	24.4
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	16.7	18.9	15.7	5.0	5.2	4.3	1.3	1.5	1.2
Transportation and Public Utilities	18.9	19.5	18.4	5.5	5.7	5.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	20.1	20.2	19.2	7.7	7.7	7.4	1.9	1.9	1.9
Retail Trade	79.3	84.4	73.4	21.2	22.8	20.2	6.4	6.9	6.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	20.3	20.1	18.8	9.1	9.0	8.5	1.8	1.7	1.7
Services	88.0	89.4	84.4	22.9	23.4	21.6	8.8	8.7	8.6
Government	83.6	87.1	82.1	13.6	14.5	13.3	3.5	3.5	3.5
Federal	18.4	18.4	18.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local 5/	65.2	68.7	63.6	12.0	12.9	11.8	3.2	3.2	3.2
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/Lumber and wood products, and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland series. 3/Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 5/Regular teachers are inlcuded in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 100. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

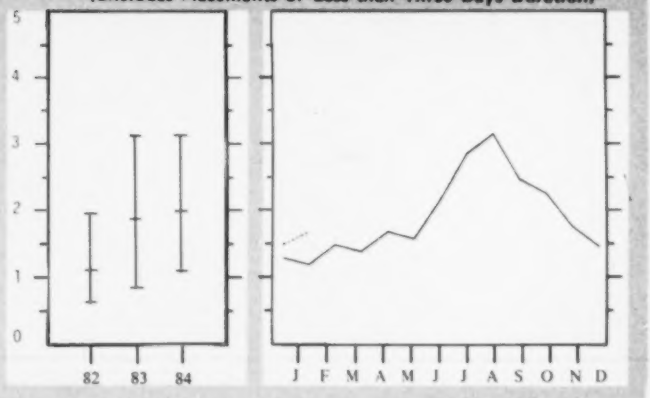
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1984	1983	1982
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$334.00	$340.66	$309.29	40.0	40.7	39.5	$8.35	$8.37	$7.83	$8.05	$7.61	$7.22
Durable Goods	345.95	350.99	322.81	40.7	41.1	40.1	8.50	8.54	8.05	8.22	8.04	7.59
Lumber and Wood Products	319.56	316.65	301.60	40.4	40.7	40.0	7.91	7.78	7.54	7.57	7.37	6.87
Primary and Fabricated Metals	334.55	344.32	313.24	41.1	42.3	39.6	8.14	8.14	7.91	7.89	7.75	7.62
Machinery, except Electrical	385.90	390.29	321.96	42.5	44.2	43.1	9.08	8.83	7.47	8.36	8.08	7.52
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	301.41	306.54	297.48	39.4	39.3	40.2	7.65	7.80	7.40	7.56	7.27	6.74
Other Durable Goods	410.27	410.44	368.48	41.4	41.5	39.2	9.91	9.89	9.40	9.51	9.31	8.84
Nondurable Goods	324.66	334.53	301.45	39.4	40.5	39.2	8.24	8.26	7.69	7.95	7.37	7.00
Food and Kindred Products	222.40	241.49	211.59	32.0	36.7	33.8	6.95	6.58	6.26	6.46	6.10	5.84
Textile Mill Products	272.84	262.50	257.27	42.9	42.0	41.9	6.36	6.25	6.14	6.13	5.87	5.49
Apparel	204.51	201.96	194.50	34.9	36.0	35.3	5.86	5.61	5.51	5.55	5.39	5.23
Paper and Allied Products	538.90	547.21	512.44	45.4	46.1	46.0	11.87	11.87	11.14	11.62	10.95	10.10
Leather and Leather Products	213.35	216.94	203.33	36.1	36.4	35.3	5.91	5.96	5.76	5.80	5.59	5.46
Other Nondurable Goods	290.38	296.21	265.34	39.4	40.3	38.4	7.37	7.35	6.91	7.11	6.60	6.23
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	336.87	326.67	283.84	39.4	39.5	37.2	8.55	8.27	7.63	7.96	7.67	7.19
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	259.38	258.75	241.77	38.2	37.5	37.6	6.79	6.90	6.43	6.58	6.16	5.96

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 2/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	230.0	238.1	223.7
Unemployed	17.7	16.3	18.1
(Percent)	7.7%	6.9%	8.1%
Resident Employed	212.3	221.7	205.6

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
(1967=100) All Items [CPI-U]	316.1	315.5	305.2	315.5

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.2%
Percent Change from Last December	+0.2%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+3.6%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE - Statewide	529.4	547.9	527.3	490.9	515.8	484.1	38.5	32.1	43.2	7.3	5.9	8.2
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	45,000	47,700	43,900	42,300	45,500	41,000	2,700	2,200	2,900	6.0	4.6	6.6
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	41,200	42,200	42,000	37,500	38,900	38,400	3,700	3,300	3,600	9.0	7.8	8.6
Portland MSA	101,200	105,500	98,200	96,800	101,800	92,800	4,400	3,700	5,400	4.3	3.5	5.5
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	30,560	30,620	30,300	28,610	29,040	28,050	1,950	1,580	2,250	6.4	5.2	7.4
Bath-Brunswick	25,240	26,240	26,060	23,840	25,230	24,430	1,400	1,010	1,620	5.5	3.8	6.3
Belfast	10,860	11,370	10,720	9,290	10,120	9,060	1,570	1,250	1,660	14.5	11.0	15.5
Biddeford	22,550	22,990	22,830	21,140	21,870	21,100	1,410	1,120	1,730	6.3	4.9	7.6
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	7,940	8,290	7,710	7,230	7,750	6,860	710	540	850	8.9	6.5	11.0
Calais-Eastport	14,400	15,240	14,670	12,900	14,000	12,950	1,500	1,240	1,720	10.4	8.1	11.7
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,100	21,350	21,210	18,570	19,230	17,990	2,530	2,120	3,220	12.0	9.9	15.2
Central Penobscot	3,960	4,420	3,980	3,690	4,200	3,680	270	220	280	6.8	5.0	7.1
Dover-Foxcroft	6,560	6,810	6,730	6,110	6,420	6,180	450	390	550	6.9	5.7	8.2
Ellsworth	20,030	20,990	20,010	18,270	19,600	18,140	1,760	1,390	1,870	8.8	6.6	9.3
Farmington	12,630	13,350	13,480	11,410	12,310	12,270	1,220	1,040	1,210	9.7	7.8	9.0
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,300	5,970	5,160	4,810	5,510	4,700	490	460	460	9.2	7.7	8.9
Greenville	1,630	1,770	1,650	1,490	1,610	1,560	140	160	90	8.6	9.0	5.5
Houlton	5,070	5,150	5,050	4,690	4,810	4,570	380	340	480	7.5	6.6	9.5
Lincoln-Howland	6,120	6,240	6,140	5,760	5,950	5,700	360	290	440	5.9	4.6	7.2
Livermore Falls	3,460	3,660	3,510	3,030	3,270	3,090	430	390	420	12.4	10.7	12.0
Madawaska-Van Buren	4,220	4,340	4,310	3,720	3,930	3,740	500	410	570	11.8	9.4	13.2
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,330	5,480	5,260	5,050	5,250	4,980	280	230	280	5.3	4.2	5.3
Norway-Paris	8,640	9,170	9,080	7,710	8,370	8,100	930	800	980	10.8	8.7	10.8
Patten-Island Falls	2,420	2,570	2,310	2,280	2,440	2,130	140	130	180	5.8	5.1	7.8
Rockland	18,310	18,920	17,990	17,050	17,820	16,260	1,260	1,100	1,730	6.9	5.8	9.6
Rumford	9,780	9,830	9,920	8,910	9,110	9,150	870	720	770	8.9	7.3	7.8
Sanford	13,180	13,260	12,520	12,010	12,300	11,590	1,170	960	930	8.9	7.2	7.4
Sebago Lakes Region	8,670	8,890	8,720	8,080	8,440	8,100	590	450	620	6.8	5.1	7.1
Skowhegan	21,450	22,590	21,680	19,270	20,750	19,110	2,180	1,840	2,570	10.2	8.1	11.9
Southwest Penobscot	8,350	8,440	8,370	7,440	7,690	7,300	910	750	1,070	10.9	8.9	12.8
Waterville	21,740	21,820	22,330	20,240	20,540	20,600	1,500	1,280	1,730	6.9	5.9	7.7
York-Kittery	22,490	22,930	21,420	21,640	22,040	20,470	850	840	950	3.8	3.7	4.4
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,703.5	1,594.0	n/a	1,624.2	1,509.8	n/a	79.3	84.2	n/a	4.7	5.3
Massachusetts	3,019.0	3,057.0	3,011.0	2,882.0	2,937.0	2,790.0	138.0	120.0	221.0	4.6	3.9	7.3
New Hampshire	n/a	525.5	498.7	n/a	504.2	472.3	n/a	21.4	26.3	n/a	4.1	5.3
Rhode Island	491.8	503.0	477.3	465.9	480.5	439.1	25.9	22.5	38.2	5.3	4.5	8.0
Vermont	274.2	277.3	264.3	260.2	265.4	245.2	14.1	11.9	19.1	5.1	4.3	7.2
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,066.4	5,845.2	n/a	5,811.3	5,456.4	n/a	255.1	388.8	n/a	4.2	6.7
UNITED STATES 3/	113,475	114,028	111,025	104,344	106,049	101,270	9,131	7,978	9,755	8.0	7.0	8.8

Note
n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to a place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

3/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	16,168	11,660	16,045	1,552	1,110	1,829	1,756	1,467	1,396
Insured Unemployment Rate *	3.9	2.7	3.9	1.8	1.3	8.2	5.2	4.3	4.1

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM 1/

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	6.8	7.7	8.5
Clerical and Sales	14.7	16.0	16.6
Service	11.3	11.6	11.6
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	2.0	1.9	1.9
Processing	4.6	4.3	4.7
Machine Trades	13.8	16.0	11.3
Benchwork	13.4	15.2	9.2
Structural Work	17.4	13.2	20.1
Miscellaneous	16.0	14.1	16.1

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	59.1	58.3	55.4
Under 22	5.9	8.3	5.8
22-24	10.8	11.1	10.4
25-34	31.6	28.7	29.0
35-39	10.8	10.2	10.2
Total 40 and Over	40.9	41.7	44.6
40-44	7.6	7.6	7.8
45-54	12.3	12.1	11.5
55-64	10.0	9.2	9.4
65 and Over	11.0	12.8	15.9

1/ Data refers to continued claimants who received benefits under the regular state unemployment insurance program.

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LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

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